

## Minutes

### WCAC Safety Commission

4/3/01

**Attendees:** Jeff Beiriger, Jose Bucio, Neill, DeClerq, Linda Ernsberger, Chris Henderson, John Metcalf, Bernice Owen, Judy Norman-Nunnery, Frank Conway, Diane Rodenberg, Dick Colvin, Jean Culbert.

#### **Topics:**

Introductions – Individuals introduced themselves for the benefit of the Commission's new member (Bernice Owen) and invited speaker (Dick Colvin).

WCRB Risk Pool – Dick Colvin presented an informational talk and provided handouts describing the function of the Wisconsin Compensation Rating Bureau. Commission members were specifically interested in how the risk pool works and how employers become assigned to the risk pool.

2000 Initiative Progress Report – Frank Conway reported on the employers chosen for the 2000-year's report card initiative. Of 250 employers, 65 were repeaters and 185 were new to the program. The original 183 employers from 1999 were divided as follows: 60 improved above industry average, 58 were marginal but above report card status, and 65 received a report card in 2000. Frank also explained the methodology for choosing report card employers.

The report card initiative used four separate letters: 1) report card with letter advising employer of need to improve safety program; 2) report card with similar letter tailored for the repeater employer; 3) letter of congratulations for improved employers; and 4) a follow-up letter one month later with safety resource materials.

2001-2002 Initiative Progress Report – Judy Norman-Nunnery opened the discussion for the group to decide on what initiatives to develop for the coming year. Back injuries and targeting youth entering the workplace for safety training were suggested. Costs of doing various campaign strategies were discussed. The monetary range included a few thousand dollars for pamphlets to thousands of dollars for television spots. It was mentioned the University of Wisconsin is currently doing a back injury study, and that the Worker's Compensation Research Institute is doing an injury study also. Judy also handed out information on a California safety program aimed at youth. The program is a cooperative effort between schools and government agencies. Discussion followed concerning Wisconsin attempting to start a youth safety program involving the schools, apprenticeships, and work permits. The question remained as to how to fund these ideas.

While exploring the back and youth safety initiatives, the Commission members agreed to proceed with a safety calendar for the year 2002 and to update the current safety manual and add the new Wisconsin Corporate Safety Award winners.

General Safety Information – Judy Norman-Nunnery handed out an article about a North Carolina's safety project and a Health and Safety News listing costs of the 10 most common workplace injuries.

Safety Commission members will be exploring partnerships to promote workplace safety and ways to fund the resulting safety programs.